

APPENDIX H

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION
FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES**

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Eglin AFB Historical Setting Summary

People are thought to have inhabited Florida for about 12,000 years. Archaeological evidence indicates that the earliest inhabitants were Paleoindian people who hunted now extinct Pleistocene animals, in addition to using small game and gathering wild plants and shellfish (Russo, 1990). As the climate gradually warmed, the resource base expanded and people developed new technologies and settlement patterns. They hunted animals such as deer, raccoon, and waterfowl. Fishing was a common activity along the coasts and rivers; shellfish were common food items. A wide range of plants was also collected. More specialized bone, stone, and shell tools were manufactured. Eventually pottery was introduced and trade networks developed. Several different kinds of cemeteries are known from this period (Russo, 1990).

Population growth was accompanied by the development of elaborate ceremonial complexes, mound burial, permanent settlements, and an increasing reliance on cultivated plants (Milanich, 1990). Baskets, weirs, and nets were intensively used to harvest shellfish and fish. Traps, throwing stones, and spears may have been used for hunting small mammals and deer (U.S. Air Force, 2000). A variety of ceramics were also used. Coastal shell middens occurred in a variety of shapes: circular, horseshoe-shaped, rectangular with cleared interior areas, and small linear shapes. Burial mounds often occurred in conjunction with the larger coastal shell middens. Later villages, hamlets, and camps clustered around mounds and cemeteries. Shellfish were collected, and fishing and hunting may have been supplemented by maize horticulture. Increasing ceremonialism is reflected in the presence of ceremonial complexes centered around large platform mounds containing burials. The major river valleys were densely occupied by intensive agriculturalists who were organized around the large ceremonial centers (U.S. Air Force, 2000).

Spanish explorers entering the region in the early 1500s encountered Maskoki-speaking groups called Seminoles by later English settlers. The name Seminole derived from the Maskoki *isti siminoli* meaning “free people.” In southern Georgia, English traders who encountered Maskoki-speaking groups living along the creeks referred to them as Creeks (Seminole, 2000). The Creek culture arrived in Florida with the Chiscas (Yuchis), joining the Chatot and Pensacola tribes. The Creeks and the Seminoles migrated into Choctawhatchee Bay by the 18th century (U.S. Air Force, 2000). Most evidence indicates that Spanish exploration focused on the Pensacola Bay area. The only permanent occupation in the region was a Spanish colony established in 1699 (U.S. Air Force, 2000), although Spanish fishermen may have lived on the shores of St. Andrew’s Bay. There is also some evidence that Smack Bayou was used during this time as a place to repair ships and boats.

After the Revolutionary War, Euroamericans moved south into the former Spanish and English lands, and conflicts arose between the native inhabitants and the settlers. In the Creek War of 1813 to 1814, some Creek groups in Alabama rose up against the settlers and the native groups that supported them. General Andrew Jackson brought in United States troops to quell the uprising and negotiated a treaty that took more than 2 million acres of land from the Native Americans (Seminole, 2000). Following the war, many Creeks migrated southward into Spanish

1 Florida with the Seminoles, where they resisted Jackson's continued attacks. Eventually, more
2 than 3,000 natives were removed to Arkansas and Oklahoma by the United States government.

3
4 With the development of southern Florida during the 20th century, the remaining Seminoles
5 became agricultural workers and worked in the tourist industry. The Seminole Tribe of Florida
6 was established in 1957 in southern Florida (Seminole, 2000). American Indian groups within
7 the Eglin AFB region include the Poarch Band of Creek and the Florida Tribe of the Eastern
8 Creek (BIA, 1998). The Poarch Band of Creek, a federally recognized tribe, was part of the
9 Creek Nation that avoided removal and remained in southern Alabama. More than 1,000 remain
10 in the vicinity of Poarch, Alabama near Atmore (Poarch Creek Indians, 2000). The Florida Tribe
11 of Eastern Creeks is an organization of Creek Indian descendants with members concentrated in
12 Calhoun and Walton counties, Florida (FSU, 1995). The Eastern Creeks are not federally
13 recognized.

14
15 Initial Euroamerican settlement following United States annexation of Florida territory was
16 concentrated along the coast, rivers, and navigable creeks due to a lack of roads in the interior
17 (U.S. Air Force, 2000). Timbering was an important source of income, and early settlers also
18 raised stock, allowing them to free forage on tracts of less arable land. In 1830, Captain Leonard
19 Destin, a shipmaster from Connecticut, started the first commercial fishing business in the area.
20 By the early 1900s, there were 18 independent fishing camps built on stilts along the shoreline of
21 the inlet (Eglin Guide 2004). After Florida became part of the U.S. in 1845, Americans
22 gradually moved into western Florida. The coming of the railroad in 1883 opened up the
23 forestlands of what is now the Eglin AFB reservation to the logging and turpentine industries
24 (U.S. Air Force, 2002). Stock ranching also continued to be a viable economic option.

25
26 Jessie Rogers, a Louisiana cattleman, settled the Niceville area in the mid-1800s. A thriving
27 mullet fishing industry developed in the area of the community of Boggy, named for a large peat
28 bank on Juniper Creek. In 1910, Boggy became Niceville. Niceville was renamed Valparaiso in
29 1919. In 1925, after a nearby community was named New Valparaiso, old Valparaiso returned
30 to the name of Niceville (Niceville, 2003).

31
32 What became Fort Walton Beach was settled by Euroamericans in 1897, when John Brooks
33 came to what was known as Brooks Landing and Brooksville (Eglin Guide, 2004). The area's
34 name was later changed to Camp Walton to honor the colonel of the Walton Guard, who had
35 camped on Santa Rosa Sound. In 1937, the city incorporated with 90 people and was renamed
36 Fort Walton after a fort established during the Seminole Wars. The name was changed to Fort
37 Walton Beach in 1953 to encourage tourism (Eglin Guide, 2004).

38 In the early 20th century lands found unsuitable for agriculture were withdrawn from the public
39 domain to determine their suitability for national forest purposes. President Theodore Roosevelt
40 established the Choctawhatchee National Forest on November 27, 1908. The supervisory
41 headquarters was established at DeFuniak Springs and moved to Pensacola in 1910. Congress
42 transferred the Choctawhatchee National Forest from the Forest Service to the War Department
43 for military purposes on June 27, 1940. The law provided that the land may be restored to
44 national forest status by proclamation or order of the President when it was no longer needed for
45 military purposes (USFS, 2004).

Camp Pinchot was built in 1910 as the original headquarters for US Forest Service personnel assigned to the newly created Choctawhatchee National Forest, one of seven original National Forests created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Transferred to the War Department in 1940, Camp Pinchot gained further significance for its role in the development of Eglin and in US preparation for W.W.II. It served as the home of the Air Armament Center Commander beginning in 1950 (U.S. Air Force, 2004b).

In 1931, the Army Air Corps Tactical School (Maxwell Field, Alabama) identified the sparsely populated forested areas surrounding Valparaiso, Florida, and the vast expanse of the adjacent Gulf of Mexico as a site for a bombing and gunnery range (U.S. Air Force, 2004a). James E. Plew, a local businessman, saw the potential of a military payroll to boost the depression-stricken economy in the local area. He leased to the City of Valparaiso 137 acres on which an airport was established in 1933, and in 1934, he offered the U.S. government a donation of 1,460 contiguous acres for the bombing and gunnery base. This became the headquarters for the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Base activated on 14 June 1935 under the command of Captain Arnold H. Rich. In 1937, the base was re-designated Eglin Field in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick I. Eglin who was killed that same year in an aircraft crash (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

With the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold ordered the establishment of a proving ground for aircraft armament. Eglin was selected for the testing mission, and in 1940, the U.S. Forestry Service ceded to the War Department the Choctawhatchee National Forest, consisting of some 384,000 acres. In 1941, the Air Corps Proving Ground was activated, and Eglin became the site for gunnery training for Army Air Forces fighter pilots, as well as a major testing center for aircraft, equipment, and tactics. In March 1942, the base served as one of the sites for Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle to prepare his B-25 crews for their raid against Tokyo (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

In addition to testing all new aircraft and their serial modifications, the Proving Ground Command established at Eglin found the isolation and immensity of the ranges especially well suited for special tasks. For example, in 1944 personnel developed the tactics and techniques to destroy German missile installations being built to support V-1 buzz-bomb attacks on England. Eglin also became a pioneer in missile development in early 1946 when the First Experimental Guided Missiles Group was activated to develop the techniques for missile launching and handling; establish training programs; and monitor the development of a drone or pilotless aircraft capability to support the Atomic Energy Commission tests, Operation CROSSROADS, at Eniwetok. In 1947, the Guided Missiles Group received nationwide publicity by conducting a successful drone flight from Eglin to Washington, D.C., in a simulated bombing mission (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

Officially designated Eglin Auxiliary Field No. 9, Hurlburt Field served as one of the small training fields built on the sprawling Eglin Air Force Range in the 1940s. Eglin commander General Grandison Gardiner named it for First Lieutenant Donald Wilson Hurlburt who was killed in an aircraft crash at the main base in 1943 (U.S. Air Force, 2004b).

In early 1950, the Air Force established the Air Research and Development Command (later Air Force Systems Command). The following year, the Air Research and Development Command established the Air Force Armament Center at Eglin bringing development and testing together

1 for the first time. The Air Force combined the Air Proving Ground Command and the Air Force
2 Armament Center to form the Air Proving Ground Center in 1957. The Center built the highly-
3 instrumented Eglin Gulf Test Range and for the next few years, served as a major missile test
4 center for weapons such as the BOMARC, Matador, GAM-72 "Quail," and GAM-77 "Hound
5 Dog" (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

6 During the 1950s, the town of Cinco Bayou became a residential community supporting the
7 increased activities at Eglin Air Force Base and the expanding commercial and tourist enterprises
8 of the Fort Walton Beach area (Cinco Bayou, 2004).

9 After falling into disuse and disrepair following World War II, Hurlburt Field was reactivated in
10 1955 to receive the 17th Light Bombardment Wing from Japan. They trained at Hurlburt for
11 three years before being succeeded by the 4751st Missile Wing of the Air Defense Command
12 that tested surface-to-air missiles launched from Okaloosa Island between Santa Rosa Sound and
13 the Gulf of Mexico (U.S. Air Force, 2004).

14 To address critical housing shortages after World War II, legislation encouraging the
15 construction of family housing near or on military installations was enacted. In 1949, a bill was
16 introduced to provide for construction of family housing by Senator Kenneth Wherry of
17 Nebraska. The military was to ensure that installations where housing was built under the
18 Wherry plan would be designated as permanent bases. Developers were to construct, own, and
19 maintain the houses and give rent priority to military families. At the end of a 40-year period,
20 each developer was to turn the project over to the Federal government. The Wherry bill did not
21 require specific designs, so developers took designs for the needed housing units from existing
22 plans in the civilian market and there are no specific Wherry-style homes. Problems with the
23 Wherry houses ranged from their small size to shoddy construction techniques. A total of 264
24 Wherry projects with 83,742 units were built for three military departments (ACHP, 2003).
25 Presently there are 625 units of Wherry housing at Eglin AFB, built from 1951 to 1958.

26 Military housing was further expanded in 1955 when Congress passed the *Capehart Housing*
27 *Act*. Similar to Wherry, Capehart required private developers to build housing units for the
28 military, but unlike Wherry, once the houses were completed they came under military control.
29 Capehart houses were larger, reducing the complaints about the smaller Wherry homes. Privacy,
30 preservation of the natural environment, and integration of the neighborhood into existing
31 facilities were also key issues in Capehart housing. They also moved toward more single-family
32 and duplex housing (ACHP, 2003). Presently there are 498 units of Capehart housing at Eglin
33 AFB, built in 1958.

34 Because of the differences between the larger Capehart homes and the Wherry homes, many of
35 the Wherry developments were at less than full occupancy and some projects defaulted. By the
36 end of the 1950s, Congress mandated the acquisition of Wherry housing at all installations that
37 were to receive Capehart units. The primary objective of acquiring the Wherry houses was for
38 the military to bring these homes up to the standards of other assigned housing in size and design
39 of living spaces. At that time, kitchen upgrades and additional bathrooms and utility rooms were
40 authorized (ACHP, 2003). When the Capehart program ended in 1964, nearly 250,000 units of
41 Wherry and Capehart had been built for the military.

1 The revival of the air commando legacy at Hurlburt Field began in 1961 when the Tactical Air
2 Command (TAC) activated the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS). Less than a
3 year later it became the 4400th Combat Crew Training Group (CCTG), which provided the Air
4 Force with a counterinsurgency and military assistance capability. In 1963, the group became
5 the 1st Air Commando Wing (ACW). The air commandos trained South Vietnamese Air Force
6 personnel and flew some of the earliest U.S. combat missions of the war (U.S. Air Force, 2004).

7 As the Southeast Asia conflict increased emphasis on conventional weapons, the responsibilities
8 at Eglin AFB grew. In 1968, the Air Proving Ground Center was re-designated the Armament
9 Development and Test Center to centralize responsibility for research, development, test and
10 evaluation, and initial acquisition of non-nuclear munitions for the Air Force. In 1979, the
11 Center was given division status. The Armament Division, re-designated Munitions Systems
12 Division in 1989, placed into production the precision-guided munitions for the laser, television,
13 and infrared-guided bombs; two anti-armor weapon systems; and an improved hard target
14 weapon used in Operation DESERT STORM during the Persian Gulf War. The Division was
15 also responsible for developing the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM),
16 an Air Force-led joint project with the U.S. Navy (U.S. Air Force, 2004a). Eglin also served as
17 the training site for the Son Tay Raiders in 1970, the group that attempted to rescue American
18 POWs from a North Vietnamese prison camp. In 1975, the installation was one of four main
19 U.S. Vietnamese Refugee Processing Centers, where base personnel housed and processed more
20 than 10,000 Southeast Asian refugees at the Auxiliary Field Two "Tent City." Eglin again
21 became an Air Force refugee resettlement center processing over 10,000 Cubans who fled to the
22 United States in 1980 (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

23 The Florida Ranger Camp was established at Eglin in 1951, by then Major Arthur "Bull"
24 Simons, Commander of the Amphibious/Jungle Training Committee at Auxiliary Field Seven,
25 which was the initial location of the Camp. The Florida Ranger Camp remained at Field Seven
26 for 20 years until it was moved to Field Six in 1970. In 1974, the Florida Ranger Camp was
27 officially renamed Camp James E. Rudder in honor of MG James E. Rudder, who commanded
28 the 2d Ranger Battalion when it scaled the cliffs at Pointe Du Hoc, France, during the 1944 D-
29 Day Normandy invasion (Global Security, 2002).

30 In 1990, the Munitions Systems Division was re-designated the Air Force Development Test
31 Center (AFDTC). During the 1990s, the Center supported test and evaluation for the
32 development of non-nuclear Air Force armament including next generation precision-guided
33 weapons; operational training for armament systems; and test and evaluation of command,
34 control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) aerospace navigation and guidance
35 systems. In 1998, the Air Force Development Test Center became the Air Force Materiel
36 Command's center for air armament. As one of AFMC's product centers, AFDTC was renamed
37 the Air Armament Center (AAC). The Center is responsible for development, acquisition,
38 testing, deployment, and sustainment of all air-delivered weapons. The AAC applies advanced
39 technology, engineering, and programming efficiencies across the entire product life cycle to
40 provide superior combat capability. The Center plans, directs, and conducts test and evaluation
41 of U.S. and allied air armament, navigation/guidance systems, and command and control (C 2)
42 systems. It operates two Air Force installations, providing host support to Eglin and Kirtland
43 AFBs, and supports the largest single base mobility commitment in the Air Force. AAC
44 accomplishes its mission through four components: The Armament Product Directorate (Eglin),

46th Test Wing (Eglin), 96th Air Base Wing (Eglin), and 377th Air Base Wing (Kirtland) (U.S. Air Force, 2004a).

Today Hurlburt Field accommodates the 16th Special Operations Wing, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), an Air Force major command, and a number of associate units (U.S. Air Force, 2004).

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